

Dear Members of the Human Services Committee of the Connecticut General Assembly:

My name is Lida Ramirez I have lived in Stamford for 16 years.

I am in favor of S.B. 284: AN ACT INCREASING THE AGE FROM EIGHT TO EIGHTEEN FOR AN INCOME ELIGIBLE PERSON TO OBTAIN HEALTH CARE REGARDLESS OF IMMIGRATION STATUS. Expanding access to HUSKY to age 18, regardless of immigration status, is an important step in ensuring that our immigrant community has access to the health care we need. But our work doesn't end with expanding access to age 18; we need to open access to HUSKY and health care to all immigrants of all ages, including parents and adults.

I am a member of the domestic workers' organization, Nosotras, as well as part of a local support group for parents. I have a son who is a citizen and although I have not had any personal problems with health insurance, as an activist in the community I have helped many families who come from different countries throughout the world and they ask me how they can take their children to see a doctor because they need to have a physical exam to enter school. As an organizer I have that information and I know where to look for these services and I have often taken these families to community centers so that they can pay the minimum that they can for a physical exam and that is why I am giving my support. As working families, we pay our taxes and their children deserve to have health insurance. It is a right that they should have access to.

I support S.B. 284 and I ask the committee to support and pass this legislation. Going forward, I ask the committee to work to open access to all immigrants regardless of age.

Thank you for your time,

Lida Ramirez